

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01

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O 140840Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2670

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9356

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFORK

SUBJECT: RIVAL MUSLIM GROUPS CLASH IN SRINAGAR

1. A SERIES OF SKIRMKISHES WITH STONES BETWEEN YOUTHS SUPPORTING SHEIKH ABDULLAH AND THOSE BACKING IMPLACABLY PRO-PAKISTANI MIRWAIZ FAROOQ LEFT UP TO 100 DEMONSTRATORS AND POLICE INJURED ON EVENING OF JULY 11 AND ON JULY 12. MAIN ACTIVITY OCCURRED JULY 12 BETWEEN CROWDS ATTENDING RALLIES CALLED BY RIVAL LEADERS IN HONOR OF MARTYRS DAY (COMMENORATING POLICE FIRING IN SRINAGAR IN 1931). ALL STORES AND OFFICES HAD BEEN CLOSED FOR DAY AND AS A RESULT, LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WERE AVAILABLE FOR RALLIES.

2. FAROOQ (AWAMI ACTION COMMITTEE) ACCUSED PLEBESKITE FRONT AND SHEIKH ABDULLAH OF ABANDONING CONCEPT OF "PLEBESCITE", SEEKING RETURN TO "DICKATORSHIP" OF 1974-53, BRIBERY, ETC. THE SHEIKH RESPONDED WITH DEFENKSE OF HIS POSITION AS MERELY
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LOOKINGK FOR "HONORABLE ALTERNATIVE" TO PLEBESCITEK. HE DESCRIBED

AYUB KHAN AS SAYING THAT INDO-PAK SETTLEMENT ON KASHMIR WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT A PLEBESCITE AND BHUTTO AS DISCOUNTING PLEBESCITE AND DESCRIBING UN RESOLUTIONS AS SCRAPS OF PAPER, CONTRASTING THESE POSITIONS WITH HIS LONG DEFENSE OF INTERESTS OF PEOPLE OF KASHMIR AND CONCEPT OF PLEBESCITE. LATTER WAS STILL HIS POSITION IF ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE ACCEPTABLE TO KASHMIRI PEOPLE COULD NOT BE FOUND.

3. COMMENT: AS WE NOTED IN NEW DELHI 9351, THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF ARMED POLICE IN SRINAGER, GOI WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN VIGILANCE AGAINST THIS TYPE OF RIOTING, WHICH HAS BEEN AN ENDEMIC ELEMENT IN KASHMIRI POLITICS FOR YEARS. MIRWAIZ FAROOK AND HIS SUPPORTERS--SIGNIFICANTLY FEWER IN NUMBER THAN THOSE OF THE SHEIKH--WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY RAISE THEIR VOICES, AND FISTS, IF IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THE SHEIKH MAY INDEED BE RETURNING TO POWER. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS CLOSELY AND PROVIDE MORE INFO AND COMMENT IF RIOTING CONTINUES. SCHNEIDER

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